



# Open Education Resources In Academic Libraries

Seeking Alternatives to High-Cost Textbooks

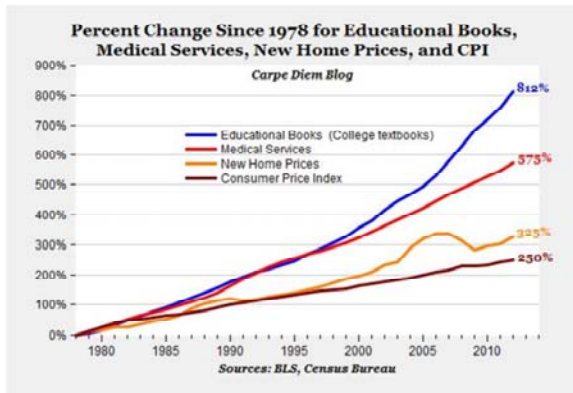
Beth Bernhardt, Assistant Dean for Collection Management and Scholarly Communications  
Karen Stanley Grigg, Science Liason Librarian  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

# Research on Cost of Textbooks

UNCG Student thoughts



## Inflation rate of textbooks out of control!



"I stopped buying textbooks my second semester here." - Marieme T., library student assistant

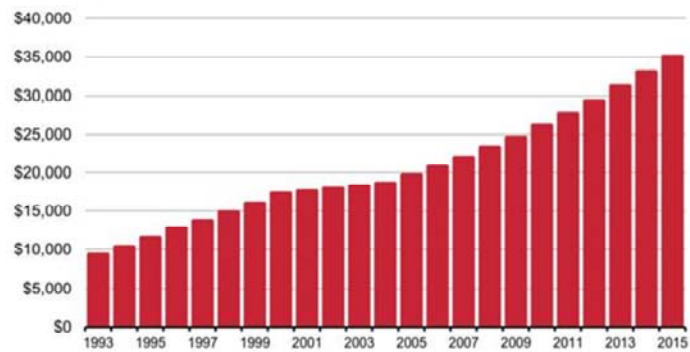
Average student loan debt as of 2015 is \$30,867

## Student loan debt

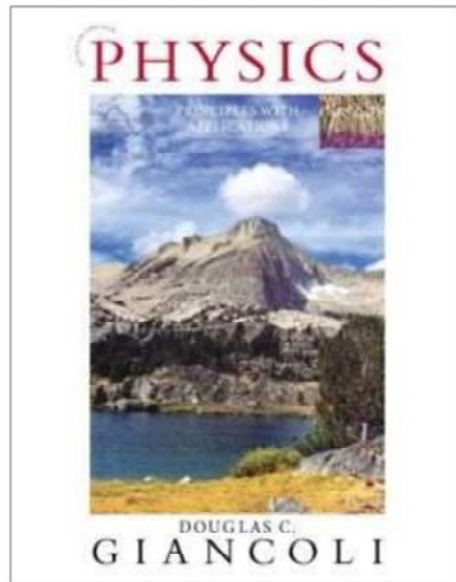
2015- Average student loan debt by those taking out loans is over \$30,000!

### Head of the Class

Average debt per borrower in each year's graduating class



Source: Mark Kantrowitz | WSJ.com




Physics: Principles With Applications, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition by Douglas C. Giancoli

University of North Carolina at Greensboro Official Bookstore

TEXTBOOKS APPAREL GIFTS

PHY 211 01 SPRIN




**PHYSICS:PR**  
RECOMMENDED 18y  
EDITION: 7TH ED  
PUBLISHER: PEARSON

from \$103.99 - \$241.60

RENT USED	\$108.70	SAVE 55%
(Return by 05/06/2015)		
RENT NEW	\$157.05	
(Return by 05/06/2015)		
BUY USED	\$181.20	
BUY NEW	\$241.60	
RENT eTEXTBOOK	\$103.99	
BUY eTEXTBOOK	\$155.99	

Savings calculated off the new book price

Source <http://uncg.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBTBustView>



Time.com Sept 1, 2015

- ▶ Cost of a new print textbook has climbed steadily over the decades
  - ▶ 1041% since 1977 - Bureau of Labor Statistics
- ▶ Average cost of a new textbook is \$68.00
- ▶ Many titles easily top the \$200 mark or more



## What are Open Educational Resources?



## Definition

Teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others.

*- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.*

## Open Educational Resources: The 5Rs Framework

- ▶ RETAIN
- ▶ REUSE
- ▶ REVISE
- ▶ REMIX
- ▶ REDISTRIBUTE



**Retain:** Users have the right to make, archive, and "own" copies of the content;


**Reuse:** Content can be reused in its unaltered form;

**Revise:** Content can be adapted, adjusted, modified or altered;

**Remix:** The original or revised content can be combined with other content to create something new;

**Redistribute:** Copies of the content can be shared with others in its original, revised or remixed form.

- See more at: <http://www.sparc.arl.org/issues/open-education#sthash.fbRDKwwH.dpuf>

- 
- ▶ Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge

[Full university courses.](#)

[Interactive mini-lessons and simulations.](#)

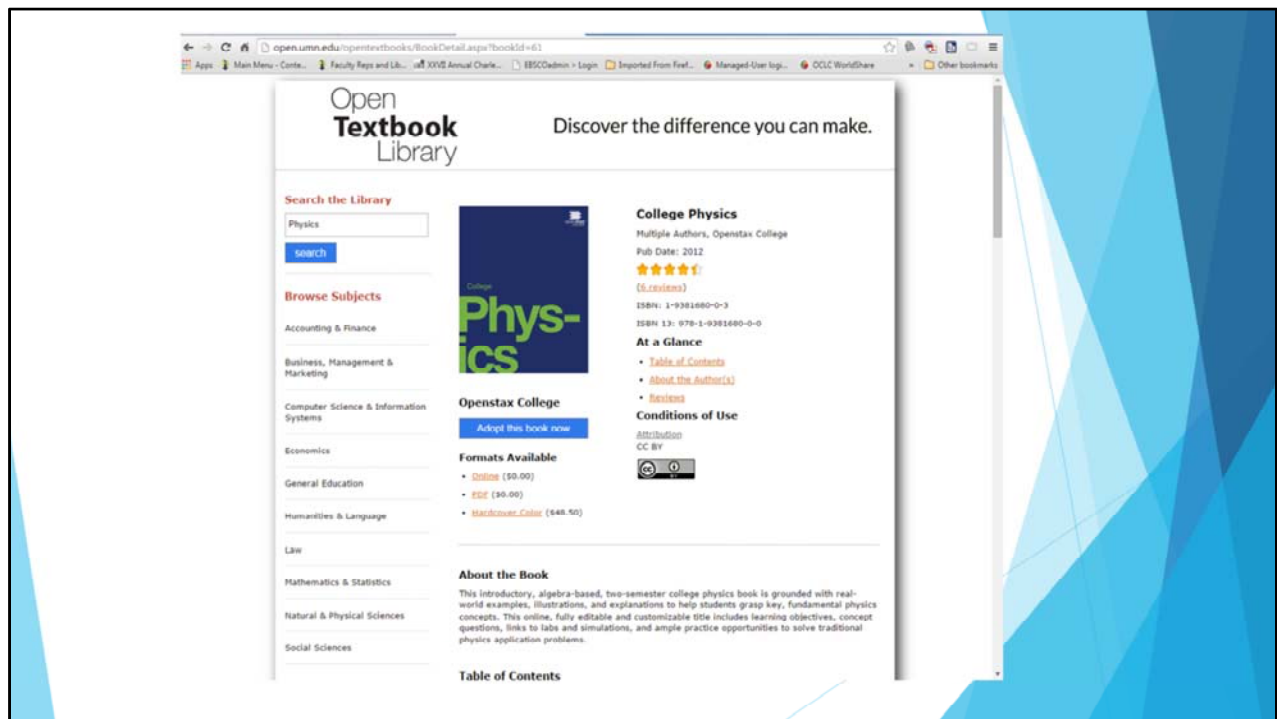
[Adaptations of existing open work.](#)

[Electronic textbooks.](#)

[Elementary school and high school \(K-12\) lesson plans, worksheets, and activities.](#)

## Many OER Collections are:

- ▶ Peer-reviewed
- ▶ Freely available to use and adapt
- ▶ Offer a wide variety of subjects
- ▶ Allow users to write reviews



## Advantages of OER

- ▶ Less expense for students
- ▶ Wide access
- ▶ Expanding access to learning
- ▶ Quick circulation
- ▶ Enhancement of regular course content
- ▶ Continually improved resources

**COST** - the use of OERs instead of traditional textbooks or course packs, etc. can substantially reduce the cost of course materials for students.

**WIDE ACCESS** – to resources from a wide variety of Higher Edu institutions, such as MIT Berkley, Minnesota, Etc.

**expanded access to learning.** Students anywhere in the world can access OERs at any time, and they can access the material repeatedly.

**enhancement of regular course content.** For example, multimedia material such as videos can accompany text. Presenting information in multiple formats may help students to more easily learn the material being taught.

**continually improved resources.** Unlike textbooks and other static sources of information, OERs can be improved quickly through direct editing by users or through solicitation and incorporation of user feedback. Instructors can take an existing OER, adapt it for a class, and make the modified OER available for others to use.

**quick circulation.** Information may be disseminated rapidly (especially when compared to information published in textbooks or journals, which may take months or even years to

become available). Quick availability of material may increase the timeliness and/or relevance of the material being presented.

## Disadvantages of OER

- ▶ Quality issues
- ▶ Time issues
- ▶ Language and/or cultural barriers
- ▶ Technological issues
- ▶ Intellectual property/copyright concerns
- ▶ Sustainability Issues

**quality issues.** Since many OER repositories allow any user to create an account and post material, some resources may not be relevant and/or accurate.

**TIME ISSUES** – It takes time to find these resources

**language and/or cultural barriers.** Although efforts are being made to make OERs available in multiple languages, many are only available in English, limiting their usefulness to non-English speakers. Additionally, not all resources are culturally appropriate for all audiences.

**technological issues.** Some students may have trouble using some OERs if they have a slow or erratic internet connection. Other OERs may require software that students don't have and that they may not be able to afford.

**intellectual property/copyright concerns.** Since OERs are meant to be shared openly, the "fair use" exemption from the U.S. Copyright Act ceases to apply; all content put online must be checked to ensure that it doesn't violate copyright law.

**sustainability issues.** Since OER creators generally do not receive any type of payment for their OER, there may be little incentive for them to update their OER or to ensure that it



will continue to be available online.

## Open Educational Resources (OER): HOME - What are OER?

HOME - What are OER? | WHAT can LEARNERS do with OER? | WHAT can EDUCATORS do with OER? | MOOCs and OERs

HOW to support OER? | OER - Mini Grants

### OER Definitions

- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
"OER are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge."
- OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)  
"digital materials offered freely and openly for educators, students, and self-learners to use and reuse for teaching, learning, and research. OER includes learning content, software tools to develop, use, and distribute content, and implementation resources such as open licenses."
- SPARC's OER  
Open Educational Resources are teaching, learning, and research resources released under an open

### What is here for you?

On this section of the guide you can discover information about:

- What are OER?
- OER Definitions
- What are OER and Creative Commons (video)?
- Types of OER
- History of OER
- Open Education is Changing the Rules (video)
- Search articles about OER

### What are OER?

Various definitions have been given for Open Educational Resources (OER).

One of the most widely accepted is: Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning and research materials in any medium that reside in the public domain and have been released under an open license that permits access, use, repurposing, reuse and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions (Atkins, Brown & Hammond, 2007).

On the Creative Commons Wiki there is a summary of some OER definitions and a table that shows common and different points in the different definitions.

Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources
Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources
Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources
Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources	Open Educational Resources

### Contact Beth Bernhardt



Beth Bernhardt

Contact:  
ph: 336-256-1210  
Jackson Library  
PO Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC 27402  
Email me: beth\_bernhardt@uncg.edu

### Search articles about OER

Search articles about Open Educational Resources in Google Scholar

<http://uncg.libguides.com/oer>

## Timeline

- ▶ October 2014 - Scholarly Communications Forum
  - “Solving the Textbook Cost Crisis with Open Educational Resources”
  - Nicole Allen from SPARC
  - Made an announcement at the Forum and in our Campus Weekly
- ▶ March 2015 - OER Mini-Grants applications announced
  - Had the Office of the Provost send out emails with the announcement
- ▶ April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - Workshops held
  - 45 faculty attended the workshops
- ▶ April 24<sup>th</sup> 2015 - Applications due
  - Had 25 applications
- ▶ May 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 - Email the Grant winners
  - Email contained contact information for the Library Liaison and the Instructional Technology Consultant

## Timeline

- ▶ August - September 2015 - Meetings with grant winners
  - Met with grant winners individually
  
- ▶ Late November - Early December 2015 - Report findings
  - Meet with grant winners again
  - Write up cost savings information
  - Write an article with quotes from faculty
  
- ▶ February 2016 - Faculty Forum with OER winners
  - Have the share their experiences

## Faculty thoughts on Workshop

- ▶ “ I am so glad I took time out to come to the workshop. It not only provided me with great information but also great contacts within the library and with my instructional technology consultant”
- ▶ “ Didn’t realize the library had so many resources and that my librarian could help find more OER resources”

## Faculty thoughts on using OER in their classes

- ▶ “The resources I found are better than the textbook” -Jennifer Reich, Associate Director / Lecturer
- ▶ “I was going to use other resources for just the BUS 201 class but ended up using them for my 240 and 240 classes” - Chanelle James, Lecturer in Bryan Business School
- ▶ “When I told my class there would be no required textbook they all clapped and cheered!” - Heather Helms - Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

## OER nationally

- ▶ Open Textbook Library - <http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/>
- ▶ Open Textbook Network - UNC Greensboro just joined in September  
<http://research.cehd.umn.edu/open/join-us/>
- ▶ Open Library of Humanities - <https://www.openlibhums.org/>
- ▶ OpenStax College - <https://openstaxcollege.org/>
- ▶ Affordable Learning Georgia - <http://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/>
- ▶ SPARC - List of OER Project and Policies -  
<http://www.sparc.arl.org/resource/list-oer-projects-policies>

## Questions?

Beth Bernhardt

Assistant Dean for Collection Management and Scholarly Communications

University of North Carolina Greensboro

[Beth\\_Bernhardt@uncg.edu](mailto:Beth_Bernhardt@uncg.edu)

336-256-1210

Karen Stanley Grigg

Science Liaison Librarian

University of North Carolina Greensboro

[ksgrigg@uncg.edu](mailto:ksgrigg@uncg.edu)

336-256-8585